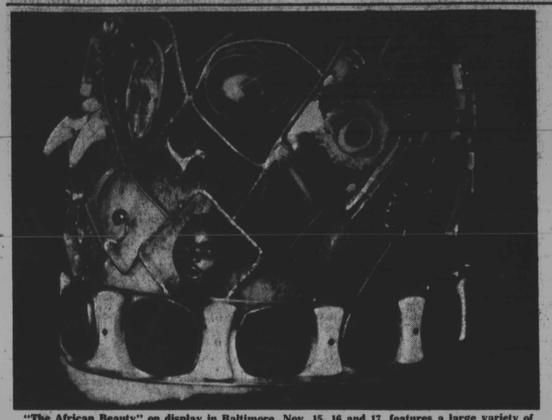


"The African Beauty" on display in Baltimore Nov. 15, 16 and 17, features a large variety of gemstones from the continent of Africa.

Gem and Jewelry Show at festival hall

Tracy Hamlin, Ms. Baltimore's Best, was presented with a special gift for representing Baltimore area craft groups at a pre-opening presentation for the 1985 East Coast Regional Gem and Jewelry Show at 11 a.m. today (Friday).

Ms. Hamlin was just one of the individuals who will be given a gift of appreciation at the ceremony — a number of international contributors were recognized as well.

The pre-opening ceremonies of the Festival Hall show gave local media a chance to view the famed Crown Jewels collection, an unusual display of necklaces and selected dealer items collectively worth more than $1,000,000.

The show itself opened at noon on Friday at Baltimore's Festival Hall and features selections of jewelry ranging in price from the inexpensive to the most extravagant. Many exhibitions and displays by local hobbyists and professional jewelers are also featured.

For more information about the show itself, call Carla Pace in Baltimore at 837-4200.

Larry Holmes, ex-heavyweight champion, models the Crown of Africa, a highlight of the gem show at the Festival Hall.

Dr. Martin Johnson named UMCP distinguished faculty member

Martin L. Johnson, an associate professor in the College of Education at The University of Maryland College Park and a nationally recognized authority in elementary school mathematics, has been chosen the 1985 Distinguished Minority Faculty Member by the Chancellor's Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues. Johnson, a Columbia, Md., resident, received the award in a ceremony Oct. 23.

Since 1980, Johnson has directed the UMCP Arithmetic Center, a teacher - training clinic, and was instrumental in securing minority graduate fellowships from the Graduate Professional Opportunities Program.

He is president - elect of the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics and will chair a national conference next year for the Research Council for Diagnostic and Prescriptive Mathematics, of which he is a founding member.

In 1983 Johnson was a Fulbright scholar in Nigeria and most recently was offered a National Science Foundation assignment for 1985-86. He also has been appointed to an advisory board for an NIE-funded project administered by the Mic - Continental Regional Education Lab.

Dr. Martin Johnson

MTA to begin suburban service in January

County Executive Donald P. Hutchinson announced recently that the first two Baltimore County routes of the MTA's new Suburban Transit Program will begin operating next January.

"Beginning the week of Jan. 20, 1986, we will see the first cross - country bus service introduced in Baltimore County," said Mr. Hutchinson. "The Essex - to - Towson route will greatly improve accessibility to the major employment centers in Towson for residents of Essex and the Middle River area.

"That same week, a new Whitemarsh - to - downtown Baltimore express service will also begin operation. These two routes represent a major advancement in improving the mobility of citizens in Baltimore County," said the County Executive.

The Essex - to - Towson and Whitemarsh - to - Baltimore routes are the only first installment of the MTA's multi - year Suburban Bus Program. This Program was initiated at the request of County Executive Hutchinson, who felt that the MTA needed to address the transportation needs of suburban commuters. Mr. Hutchinson was instrumental in negotiating a transfer of interstate funds from uncompleted projects to the new program.

The Essex route will start at the Essex Park-and-Ride lot along Eastern Boulevard, and make stops at Taylor, Stuart, Marlyn, and the Middlesex Shopping Center. From Middlesex, a 20-minute express trip across Md. 702 and the Baltimore Beltway will bring commuters directly into Towson. There, stops will be made at Blue Cross, Black and Decker, Towson Centre, the County Courthouse, and Towson State University. The service will operate during rush hours only, with buses departing Essex approximately every 20 minutes. One trip each morning and afternoon will also bring residents of Towson to and from Essex.

The Whitemarsh express service promises to greatly improve travel time for residents of that area. According to MTA planners, use of the new Fort McHenry Tunnel will cut commuting time to downtown Baltimore in half. Buses will depart the Whitemarsh Mall during rush hour approximately every 20 minutes. The MTA is currently negotiating with the owners of both Whitemarsh Mall and the Middlesex Shopping Center to provide park - and - ride service at both locations.

Future routes in the County are planned for Pikesville, Catonsville, Dundalk, Rosedale and Hunt Valley. The County has requested that the MTA study existing service as well and improvements for routes such as the No. 55 are also being evaluated.

The MTA has announced a public hearing on the new Essex and Whitemarsh express bus routes, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 7:8:30 p.m., in Room B-220 of the Business and Management Center at Essex Community College. County residents are encouraged to attend this hearing for further information, and to express their views on the proposed routes.

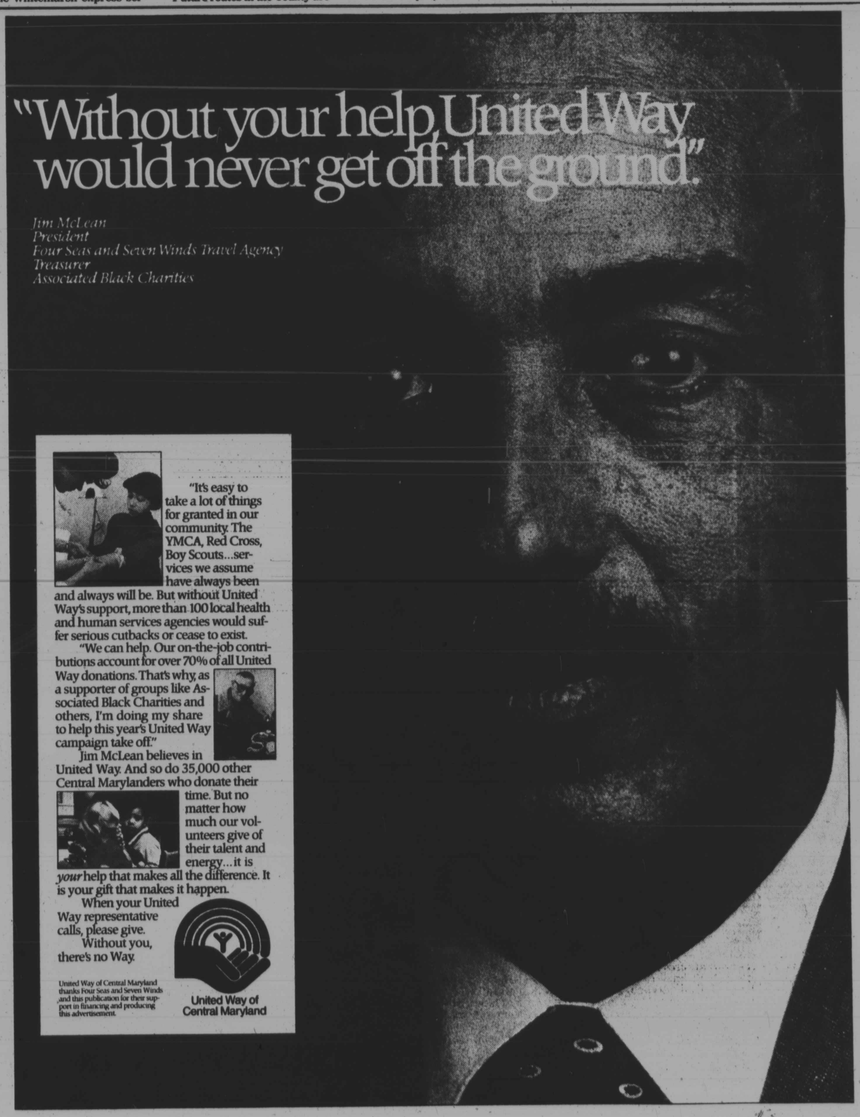
Red Cross seeking to raise $20 million for disaster relief

The American National Red Cross announced recently that it is launching a nationwide disaster relief emergency fund campaign to raise a minimum of $20 million to meet current and future demands for disaster relief.

Since Labor Day, 5,656,000 Americans have been affected by disasters, and the American Red Cross has incurred expenses of over $39 million for disaster relief operations following Hurricane Elena, Hurricane Gloria, Hurricane Juan and flooding and mudslides in Puerto Rico. This week's record flooding in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia is expected to add significantly to this figure.

With eight months remaining in this fiscal year, the Red Cross already has a deficit of $5 million in its disaster budget and anticipates additional disaster expenditures of at least $15 million through June 30, 1986.

Red Cross teams of disaster workers throughout the state of Maryland have been in action this week, staffing shelters, doing damage assessment and providing assistance to victims of the severe and unexpected flooding.

In announcing the campaign, American Red Cross President, Richard Schubert stated that "American giving in the past 12 months has shown a remarkable caring and concern for the victims of foreign disasters — the famine in Africa and the Mexican Earthquake." He cited press reports that stated that 1985 is only the third time in this century that five or more hurricanes have hit the U.S. Mainland.

Contributions for this emergency campaign should be sent to the Baltimore Regional Red Cross, 2701 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.